



HR1314

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of William  
4 Travis "Bill" Plater, who passed away on August 1, 2014; and

5           WHEREAS, William Plater was born in Vienna on August 10,  
6 1927 to William Garrett and Ruby K. (nee Travis) Plater; he  
7 served in the United States Navy during World War II and in the  
8 Army Counter Intelligence Corps during the Korean War; he  
9 graduated from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale  
10 (SIU) in 1951 and worked for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat as a  
11 writer and artist; and

12           WHEREAS, William Plater was best known for portraying the  
13 character of "Cactus Pete" for 16 years for WSIL-TV3 in  
14 Harrisburg; "Cactus Pete" was a blend of cowboy, prospector,  
15 and Gabby Hayes types, who anyone that grew up in southern  
16 Illinois or attended SIU during the 1960s and 1970s would  
17 remember; he also played "Ruffles the Clown" and "The Cartoon  
18 Man" and was emcee of the afternoon variety program, "Studio  
19 Show", for WSIL-TV3; he joined the station as an art director  
20 when it first went on the air in December of 1953; and

21           WHEREAS, William Plater married Susan K. (nee Payne) McGill  
22 on December 28, 1991; and

1           WHEREAS, Following his time on television, William Plater  
2           founded Plater Printing & Trophies, Inc. in Harrisburg and ran  
3           it for 18 years; after that, he and his wife established  
4           Graphics Galore, Inc. in Marion and operated it for 8 years; in  
5           semi-retirement, they started a promotional product business,  
6           "The Idea Shop"; and

7           WHEREAS, William Plater enjoyed reading newspapers,  
8           drawing, painting, gardening, and yard work; and

9           WHEREAS, William Plater was preceded in death by his  
10          parents; and

11          WHEREAS, William Plater is survived by his wife, Susan; his  
12          daughter, Darci Plater; his son, William Kelly Plater; his  
13          step-daughter, Cynthia (Darren) Ward; his step-son, Bryan  
14          (Melinda) McGill; 4 step-grandchildren, Jacob Norris and  
15          Murphy, Lenox, and Rogan Ward; his sister, Mary Ann (George)  
16          Chenoweth; his brother-in-law, Philip (Rosemary) Payne; his  
17          niece, Kathy Hefele; and his cousin, Wanda Slack; therefore, be  
18          it

19          RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
20          NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
21          we mourn the passing of William Travis "Bill" Plater, and

1 extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all  
2 who knew and loved him; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to the family of William Plater as an expression of  
5 our deepest sympathy.